

C L A I M S

1. (currently amended) An ultra-wideband communication system for a power grid that includes a transformer, comprising:

an ultra-wideband transmitter structured to transmit an ultra-wideband signal through the power grid;

an ultra-wideband receiver structured to receive the ultra-wideband signal from the power grid; and

further comprising at least two ultra-wideband bridges structured to selectively receive and transmit the ultra-wideband signal around [[a]] the transformer.

2. (original) The ultra-wideband communication system of claim 1, wherein the ultra-wideband signal comprises a pulse of electromagnetic energy having a duration that can range between about 10 picoseconds to about 10 milliseconds.

3. (original) The ultra-wideband communication system of claim 1, wherein the ultra-wideband signal comprises a pulse of electromagnetic energy having a duration that can range between about 10 picoseconds to about 10 milliseconds and a power that can range between about +30 power decibels to about -60 power decibels, as measured at a single frequency.

4. (canceled)

5. (original) The ultra-wideband communication system of claim 1, further comprising at least two ultra-wideband bridges, with each ultra-wideband bridge comprising an ultra-wideband pulse modulator and an ultra-wideband pulse demodulator.

6. (original) The ultra-wideband communication system of claim 1, wherein the power grid comprises:

- a power plant structured to generate electricity;
- a transmission substation;
- a distribution substation;
- a residential transformer; and
- a power line structured to transmit electricity from the power plant to each of the transmission substation, distribution substation and the residential transformer.

7. (original) The ultra-wideband communication system of claim 6, further comprising:

- at least two ultra-wideband bridges positioned adjacent to each of the transmission substation, the distribution substation, and the residential transformer; and
- wherein the at least two ultra-wideband bridges are structured to selectively receive and transmit the ultra-wideband signal around the transmission substation, the distribution substation, and the residential transformer.

8. (original) The ultra-wideband communication system of claim 1, further comprising:

- means for adjusting the ultra-wideband signal to optimize transmission of the ultra-wideband signal through the power grid.

9. (currently amended) A method of transmitting a plurality of ultra-wideband pulses through a power grid that includes a power grid transformer, the method comprising the steps of:

introducing the plurality of ultra-wideband pulses into a power line;

receiving the plurality of ultra-wideband pulses from the power line at a first ultra-wideband device located adjacent to [[a]] the power grid transformer; and

transmitting the plurality of ultra-wideband pulses from the first ultra-wideband device to a second ultra-wideband device, so that the plurality of ultra-wideband pulses go around the power grid transformer.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:

re-introducing the plurality of ultra-wideband pulses into the power line subsequent to going around the power grid transformer.

11. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

repeating the steps of receiving and transmitting so that the plurality of ultra-wideband pulses go around selected power grid transformers; and

repeating the steps of re-introducing the plurality of ultra-wideband pulses into the power line subsequent to going around the selected power grid transformers.

12. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein each of the plurality of ultra-wideband pulses comprise a pulse of electromagnetic energy having a duration that can range between about 10 picoseconds to about 10 milliseconds.

13. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein each of the plurality of ultra-wideband pulses comprise a pulse of electromagnetic energy having a duration that can range between about 10 picoseconds to about 10 milliseconds and a power that can range between about +30 power decibels to about -60 power decibels, as measured at a single frequency.

14. (currently amended) An apparatus for transmitting a plurality of ultra-wideband pulses through a power grid that includes a power grid transformer, comprising:

means for introducing the plurality of ultra-wideband pulses into a power line;

means for receiving the plurality of ultra-wideband pulses from the power line at a first ultra-wideband device located adjacent to [[a]] the power grid transformer; and

means for transmitting the plurality of ultra-wideband pulses from the first ultra-wideband device to a second ultra-wideband device, so that the plurality of ultra-wideband pulses go around the power grid transformer.

15. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:

means for re-introducing the plurality of ultra-wideband pulses into the power line subsequent to going around the power grid transformer.

16. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:

means for repeating the steps of receiving and transmitting so that the plurality of ultra-wideband pulses go around selected power grid transformers; and

means for repeating the steps of re-introducing the plurality of ultra-wideband pulses into the power line subsequent to going around the selected power grid transformers.

17. (currently amended) An ultra-wideband bridging system, comprising:

at least two ultra-wideband devices positioned adjacent to a power grid apparatus, the at least two ultra-wideband devices structured to selectively receive and transmit a plurality of ultra-wideband pulses so that the power grid apparatus is bypassed;

wherein the power grid apparatus is selected from a group consisting of: a transmission substation, a distribution substation, an industrial substation, a pad transformer, a pole transformer, and a residential transformer.

18. (canceled)

19. (original) The ultra-wideband bridging system of claim 17, wherein each of the at least two ultra-wideband devices comprises an ultra-wideband modulator, an ultra-wideband demodulator, and a coupler structured to selectively receive and transmit the plurality of ultra-wideband pulses through a power line.

20. (original) The ultra-wideband bridging system of claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of ultra-wideband pulses comprise a pulse of electromagnetic energy having a duration that can range between about 10 picoseconds to about 10 milliseconds.

21. (original) The ultra-wideband bridging system of claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of ultra-wideband pulses comprise a pulse of electromagnetic energy having a duration that can range between about 10 picoseconds to about 10 milliseconds and a power that can range between about +30 power decibels to about -60 power decibels, as measured at a single frequency.